

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SCI-06 MED-03 COME-00 PM-07 HEW-08

DODE-00 FEA-02 PRS-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 /066 W

----- 104632

R 081628Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7826

UNCLAS LONDON 01789

DEPARTMENT PASS COMMERCE, DOD AND HEW

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN

SUBJECT: SURGICAL DISPOSABLE NEEDLES

REF: STATE 17372 AND LONDON 748

1. ECONMIN SENT LETTER TO MINISTER FOR ENERGY
PATRICK JENKIN JANUARY 29 PER DEPT'S REFTEL. EMBASSY
HAS BEEN INFORMALLY ADVISED IN ADVANCE OF OFFICIAL
REPLY THAT JONAH WARNER LTD. IS BEING ALLOWED TO
CHANGE FROM THREE DAY WEEK TO TREATMENT AS CONTINUOUS
PROCESS INDUSTRY, PERMITTING FULL WEEK PRODUCTION AT
SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT OF NORMAL PRODUCTION. DECISION
BASED ON SPECIAL HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS, NOT
EXPORT RATIONALE, AS EXPORTS PER SE HAVE BEEN RULED
OUT AS REASON FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM CURRENT POWER
RESTRICTIONS.

2. THIS PUTS WARNER ON SAME BASIS AS ANOTHER
SURGICAL NEEDLE MANUFACTURER SUPPLYING HOME MARKET
EXCLUSIVELY (PARA 3 EMBASSY'S 748) AND SHOULD PERMIT
SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN PRODUCTION AS EXPERIENCE TO
DATE HAS SHOWN FIRMS ON REDUCED CONTINUOUS PROCESS
SCHEDULE ARE ATTAINING UP TO EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT OF
FULL PRODUCTION.

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3. FOREGOING INFORMATION RECEIVED PRIOR TO ANNOUNCE-

MENT OF COAL MINERS' STRIKE DECISION WHICH, IF IT
HOLDS, COULD OBVIOUSLY CREATE HAVOC THROUGHOUT THE
ECONOMY.

4. RE PARA 3 DEPT'S REFTTEL. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE
TO ADVISE FIRMS TO APPROACH HMG INITIALLY BUT BELIEVES
IT ADVISABLE TO CHECK WITH DEPT IN CASES SUCH AS THIS
PRIOR TO OFFICIAL LETTER TO HMG FOR VERIFICATION OF
SUPPLY SITUATION IN U.S. FOR EXAMPLE, MINISTRY
OF ENERGY OFFICIAL CONTACTED EMBASSY TO ESTABLISH
USG INTEREST IN SURGICAL NEEDLE SUPPLY SITUATION AND
DEPT'S CABLE WAS USEFUL IN CONFIRMING THIS IN FACE
OF SOME SKEPTICISM ON HMG OFFICIAL'S PART OF PURELY
LOCALLY INSPIRED PRESSURE CAMPAIGN ON PART OF A
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR A CONSTITUENT FIRM.
ANNENBERG

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